



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII  
726 MINNESOTA AVENUE  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

MAY 22 1986

Mr. Warren H. Hill  
National Park Service  
Niobrara / Missouri National Scenic Riverways  
P.O. Box 591  
O'Neill, Nebraska 68763

**RE: Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the  
Niobrara National Scenic River in Brown, Cherry, Keya Paha, and Rock Counties,  
Nebraska**

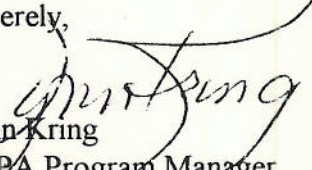
Dear Mr. Hill:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and our authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Region VII office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project referenced above. We have rated this document "LO", which means that our review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the preferred alternative.

We noticed that although the National Park Service identified a preferred management alternative, they did not select a preferred boundary alternative from among the three carried forward. It is the policy of EPA to rate each alternative separately when the responsible agency does not identify a preferred alternative. In this instance we have no objections to any of the 3 boundary alternatives. We do believe, however, that Boundary Alternative 2, in conjunction with the preferred management alternative, provides the greatest protection for the resources of the system.

If you or members of your staff have any questions or need clarifications concerning our comments and recommendations, please feel free to contact me at (913) 551-7456.

Sincerely,

  
Lynn Kring  
NEPA Program Manager

cc: Ms. Elaine Suriano, U.S. EPA, Office of Federal Activities  
Mr. Royce Huber, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Ms. Mary Peterson, U.S.D.A. Forest Service  
Mr. Jan Joseph, U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Mr. John Bender, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality  
Mr. Chuck Duncan, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission